



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **LOCAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR MAY**

*National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Awareness Month encourages education and good choices*

Along with tens of thousands of teens nationwide, local teens are expected to participate in May's National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Awareness Month as well as the third annual National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, recognized on Wednesday, May 5, with the Lincoln-Lancaster Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Coalition (TPPC) as a participant. The purpose of the National Day is to focus the attention of teens on the importance of avoiding too-early pregnancy and parenthood. Beginning May 5, teens will be asked to go to [www.teenpregnancy.org](http://www.teenpregnancy.org) or [www.teenpeople.com](http://www.teenpeople.com) and take a short, scenario-based "quiz" that asks young people what they would do in a number of sexual situations. Beginning May 6th, the quiz will remain online for most of the month of May.

The prevention quiz is sponsored by the nonprofit, nonpartisan, National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, and National Day founding partners, TEEN PEOPLE magazine and Teen-People.com. In addition, more than 115 prominent national organizations have signed on as official National Day partners and related events are planned in hundreds of communities across the country. The message of the National Day is straightforward: Sex has consequences. The online quiz (available in English and Spanish) delivers this message directly to teens and challenges them to think carefully about what they might do "in the moment."

**Making a Difference:** Nearly 300,000 individuals took the National Day Quiz in 2003. A portion of the survey indicates:

- \*57% of teens said that the National Day Quiz made the consequences of sex more real to them;
- \*70% said the quiz made them think about what they would do in such situations.

**Why a National Day to Prevent Teen Pregnancy?** Despite significant progress during the past decade, 35 percent of teen girls become pregnant at least once before age 20 and the vast majority (78 percent) of teen pregnancies are unintended. In the Lincoln-Lancaster County area, there were 322 births in 2002 to teen mothers, representing 8.4% of all births. The 2003 Lincoln-Lancaster Youth Risk Behavior Survey shows that will 37.2% of all high school students (grades 9-12) have reported having intercourse, and 54% of high school seniors reported ever having sex.

**Local Activities for May** - The Lincoln-Lancaster Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Coalition (TPPC) will also sponsor a booth at Free Fest on May 14, 4-7 pm, at Antelope Park with a "life choices" wheel and a laptop with wireless Internet for youth to take the survey. Educational material will also be distributed. In addition, postcards with pertinent facts on teen pregnancy will be mailed twice weekly to community elected officials and leaders. The Lincoln-Lancaster Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Coalition formed to deter teenage pregnancy and prevent the negative effects of adolescent child bearing and parenting through an integrated system of comprehensive services. The Coalition respects a diversity of philosophical viewpoints. It does not, as a group, advocate for specific solutions and viewpoints, but leaves these philosophical positions up to each member organization. The Coalition works together in those areas of group agreement.